

ECOLOGY BETWEEN POLITICS AND ECONOMY

EKOLOGIJA IZMEĐU POLITIKE I EKONOMIJE

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Abstract

Modern trends of socio-economic and technological development have a feature of permanent and the quickest changes in the history of human civilization. The consequences of such development raise many issues of sustainable development of our society in general and in particular. Although ecology has the character of requirements for sustainable development, in the latest developments, the question of its fate is importantly allocated by problems of relations between politics and economics. With these problems are opened main questions of this paper - how to survive development, to differentiate the interests and satisfy the assumptions of survival? In these changes which are globalizing ecology has a common interest and permanent needs of people and their communities. However, it is intended that this paper analyzes the consequences for that interests of the relationship between politics and economics in the current dynamics of the overall development. Expected results should contribute to the harmony between the political and economic interests and the needs of people on the one hand and ecology on the other hand, all in the human community, and not only in the state as a social and political community.

Protecting the environment today is one of the few issues that are at the same time as significant for national and international community as for a global society. In theory of security, actualization of this issue was further shaken the foundations of traditional - realistic and liberal schools of safety. The authors, who call themselves members of the school of global society, assume that the system of sovereign states already gave way to a global society, and leading schools of security in the world, at the beginning of the first decade of this century, points out that there is established consensus under which the threat to environment are

Sažetak

Suvremeni tijekovi društveno-ekonomskog i tehnološko-tehničkog razvoja imaju obilježje stalnih i, neusporedivo, najbržih promjena u povijesti ljudske civilizacije. Posljedice takvog razvoja otvorile su brojna pitanja održivog razvoja društva uopće, i našeg posebno. Iako ekologija pruža uvjete za održivi razvoj, u suvremenim društveno-ekonomskim procesima, pitanje njene sudbine i samih procesa bitno je opredjeljeno odnosima u neravnostranom trokutu kojeg čine: ekologija, politika i ekonomija. Ovim pitanjima, otvaraju se osnovni problemi ovog rada - kako preživjeti razvoj, kako diferencirati interese strana u trokutu, i, na kraju, zadovoljiti pretpostavke opstanka? U novim globalnim promjenama ekologija ima zajednički prostorni značaj i trajnu potrebu ljudi i njihovih zajednica. Međutim, moja namjera u ovom radu jeste, da ekologiju kao suvremeni civilizacijski problem pokušam sagledati sa aspekta odnosa politike i ekonomije, kao dominirajućih ljudskih djelatnosti u ovoj dinamici ukupnog razvoja. Očekivani rezultati, treba li bi doprinijeti uspostavljanju harmonije između ljudi i njihovih aktivnosti u odnosu prema ekološkim okvirima života u znanosti koja izučava mehanizme opstanka živih bića ili, samo, u ekologiji i u ljudskoj zajednici.

classified in the same rank with conventional security threats to states.

The rapid expansion of the process of globalization of society and initiating a debate on the new nature of security, have contributed to this process that environmental is legally clearly defined. Observations in political practice indicate that, whit in, it is less about the relationship between the states and more about the existence of relationships between the basic units of society that include individuals, social groups and nations in the global community. In this sense is recognized the contribution of advocates of school of networked /1/ and/or global society, when they

interpreted that the system of sovereign states, in the new process, turns into a global community of individuals through international organizations and international law. In this regard, proponents of global society are reminding on the internationally-legal aspects and the major contribution to the international non-governmental organizations. At a time when international law is transformed from international to the law of world community, transnational Law, the common law of mankind, or the widest in the World Law, it is required to bear in mind its overall goal of environmental protection. The overall objective involves international law in the environmental field as a way to improve the integration of development policy and the environmental policy through effective international agreements. At the same time, it implies respect for universal principles and specific needs related to individual countries. It could all contribute to the formation of a new management practices /2/, political, economic and legal, to the environment in general and the problems that question the protection of the environment, in particular.

Regard this, it is necessary to recall that the protection of the environment, at the same time is not only legal, economic and political, but also an ethical issue. The fact that it has been already established a dense network of global economic system, finance, communications and information of international, multinational and transnational companies, resulting in a functional sense is a solid connection between politics, law and economics. The functional relationship of the factors in this network has contributed to the strengthening of global culture and connecting people across borders and global understanding of environmental problems. The practice of disrupting the balance between these issues, or shifting the emphasis to economic interest as a principle for the regulation of the global world is becoming an obstacle for establishment of conditions for a healthy living environment and creating a fairer, safer and more peaceful world. Indivisibility of law, economics and politics, suggesting further consideration of political power, its function in relation to the environment as the "invisible hand" /3/ of the

market directed at profit and marginalization of sustainable development and human security in it.

POLITICAL POWER AND PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Political power is an expression of economic power as economic and financial power gives political power to those who possess it on democratic principles, and, conversely, those who do not have the economic power are deprived of funds to use political power. In order to make the problem of political power more clear, in considering the economy can be put aside, and focus the analysis on the nature and functioning of the political system of the country, to its democratic and non-democratic character, its regime, financially funds and other sources of funding, decision-making process and behavior of relevant ministers, regional and local executive bodies. Social policy and the promotion of sustainable development, analogous to the school of thought of the democratic peace, this analysis is important because of knowledge about the nature of the democratic system and the role of the public and its democratic mechanisms for achieving environmental policy. In case of inadequate policies to protect the environment, the power of the public may initiate mechanisms of resistance and lead, not only in the question of political practice, but also to come forward with demands for regime change /4/. However, it should be noted that solving complex environmental threats - such as those that arise as a result of inadequate management of hazardous waste in the country with a rich democratic tradition, are further complicating by *invisible mechanisms of the system "parallel" to state ones*. For the understanding of environmental issues, so its "safe state" - "state without compromising the - threats" must bear in mind the nature of the system and the policies governing it, which, after all, determines the character of the legal system, or the system's functionality in a triangle : politics - economics - law = safety or environmental protection. In countries that conditionally call capitalist, is visible degree of market regulation, even though they are in the last three decades, mov-

ing in the direction of deregulation, particularly in the monetary and financial sectors. Common to these countries and countries in transition, such as ours, that is, unregulated market allows the realization of an unjust distribution of power, on the one hand unrealistic magnification of political power, and the other contributes to more wealth and power is directed towards those who both of it already have. In contrast, those who haven't it all are not able to protect themselves from the injustices that arise from the coupling of the political and economic mechanisms. Practice has confirmed the result of dysfunction system in which economic well-off categories of citizens becomes recognizable richer, greedier political, and the rest of the citizens poorer, a society and its environment socially, economically and environmentally not safer. We should not forget that this is part of the practice of ideological profiling through the process of which today we call globalization and all that is associated with this process. With the above, similar characteristics share global society. First of all, this is reflected in the environmental challenges and threats to the widest scale such as *global environmental certainty "Hiroshima", uncontrollable consequences of technological and technical processes, organized crime, problem solving and continuous increase in the amount and types of waste, shortages of drinking water and healthy food, and poverty in general.* /5/ For example, "Organization of the Food and Agriculture UN (FAO) warned (October, 2008) that hunger does harm a billion people and that for the solution to this problem is needed \$ 30 billion. That same year, the joint action of six central banks (U.S., EU, Japan, Canada, Britain and Switzerland) was pumped 180 billion dollars in order to save private banks. So did the U.S. Senate by approving an additional \$ 700 billion and two weeks later another 850 billion dollars. All this was not enough and the package of measures was still growing till September 2009, and according to estimates reached 17 billion dollars." /6/ This example illustrates the conflict of demagoguery and realism. If in accordance with the law of supply and demand we say that in the world there is an increasing demand for bread than for luxury yachts and much greater demand for the drug

against malaria virus or "West Nile" /7/ than for high fashion, and if at the same time proposed to hold a referendum - as a democratic act declaring the will of the citizens, in which we ask the citizens if they would rather spend their money for the protection of life or to save the banks - we would be accused for being demagogues. In contrast, if we accept that it is more important to prevent bank failures, rather than feed millions of children, eradicate malaria, it would seem that we are realists. It is a world in which we talk about protecting the environment, forgetting the indivisible connection between economics and politics as well as the location and the decision-making on behalf of, but not always in the interest of citizens. After all, in today's understanding of society, economy and logic of the market, there is no functional mechanism to ensure the functionality of decisions and civil security between policy - economics. The reason for this lies in the fact that today's economy is dedicated to the immeasurable growth of GDP as product rather than quality of life, and that the policy of environment, very often, instead of eco-efficiency emphasizes profit gain. The best example of this can be found if we look at the advocacy measures and procedures in the management of waste, especially proponents of thermic methods and preoccupations of politicians in determining the relationship between the percent of profit without going superficially in the impact on the environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY POLICY

Environmental security policy is intended to complement the understanding of security in general, and particularly to point out its function in achieving the concept of sustainable development of society. In evolution of understanding security, concept of environmental security belongs to politics based on *the international agreements on the environment, the efforts of the peace movement and raising the importance of the threat in reality beyond the traditional practices of understanding security related to the state* /8/. The notion of environmental security policy should help in political practice at different levels of decision-making in different situations for different people and for different

reference objects in terms of prevention, elimination or reduction of the effects of threats such adverse events that harm something that is worthwhile. The very concept of security has traditionally been applied to a variety of events and objects (business, health, organization, society, state), and the different types of risks and threats (unemployment, lack of food, a change of government, war). The contemporary understanding of the term is extended, to the **environment**, for many a surprising reference for security, and **changes in the environment**, including ones with development character and factors to enlarge GDP, a safety and security issue with a potentially threatening character. These and others interfaces between the environment and modern security phenomena are included in issue of "**environmental security**". As well as wider security studies area, are the approaches to environmental security diverse and reflect a number of theoretical perspectives. However, in the scientific community there is consensus that the environmental security is only one in a series of "*new non-traditional security issues*" that have led to the deepening and broadening the concept of security in general. In other words, it contributed to the consensus for the expanded understanding of the concept that includes not only the *security of the state*, but the safety of society, the living environment in the region and globally, as well as a number of common sub-systems and social systems. In decision making, understanding of new interpretation of security should contribute in terms of responses to the questions:

- *Is it and what is* protected in traditional security policies;
- *Of which threats or hazards to be protected*, and
- *What risk can pose subjective decisions of one kind?*

Seen from an ecological perspective, there is concern that even this concept of environmental security has led to the militarization of environmental issues and the misuse of real environmental problems to increase the potential political power of an individual or a political party. In fact, from the perspective of the dominant security paradigm, there is concern that this concept buried "*hard*" character of

issues of analysis and planning of national security, but also that a politicized issue of threats to the environment are transformed into profit interests of politicians as a destructive act in an honest and well-intentioned advocates of management policy in environmental protection. Regardless of the different approaches and evaluates of this problem, I believe that environmental protection and the concept of environmental security should be the link between the ethical values of *those involved in security at all, among policy-makers and economic development policies and those dealing with environment protection within the accepted normative solutions*. In this way, all of these should contribute to the creation of a new practice and improvement of the theory as a basis for rational dialogue and the human contribution to safety in general and environmental security in particular.

SOURCES OF THREAT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

Sources of threats to the environment are an important block of related conceptual issues of state security. About those in the theoretical works have been intensive talks from beginning of '60s of the twentieth century, and in practice - in the world and in our country, perceive differently valued results.

In general, threats to the safety of the environment and the responses to them influenced on the *increase in environmental awareness* around the world. The increase was primarily manifested in the developed countries, and the wider with *environmental movements*. To more concrete results in the field, directly contributed a series of articles on the *impact of pesticide DDT to animals and the food chain*, published in the New Yorker from which later formed the popular Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring* in 1962. Emergence and spread of environmental organizations /9/ and publishing activities affected further to define a range of important policy issues for environmental safety, as well as:

- *The creation of ecological networks in different countries,*
- *Dissemination of research,*
- *Raising awareness,*

- *Development of policies and controls,*
- *Development of capacity for protection,*
- *The collection of funds and*
- *Lobbying at local, national and international forums.*

Thanks to their development normatively are arranged a number of questions from various sectors of the environment, defined management policies in different situations, and established a number of approaches for the protection on different levels of social organization in various countries around the world. Concrete results on a global scale have been recorded in the '70s of the twentieth century when it was convened an international conference on environmental issues and created an international agreement on environmental issues. The first results of parallel studies have shown the best in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (1987) rated under "*Our Common Future*". The report popularized the term *sustainable development* and introduced the term *ecological security*. In addition, the report has opened the way for convening a major Conference of United Nations on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro (1992), And marked a turning point for the understanding of the ecological security in a broad international level, after which followed a series of significant conferences and activities. End of the bipolar system and the "Cold War" as its symbol, create a true "confusion" in the theory and practice of security policy in general, and especially environmental. For a few years there was a real "mess" in the understanding of the national to the global level, so many of the old ways of thinking were in conflict with the new, more undifferentiated, understanding of security. While the current level of environmental awareness in the society is still insufficient for adequate practical relationship to the core problem, it should be noted that the appreciation of a combination of different security point of view, starting from the report *Our Common Future* (1987) and the Conference at York University in Toronto (1994) entitled *Strategies in conflict: a critical approach to the security studies* /10/, contributed to the old ways of thinking about security have become less relevant. The very concept of security is a

term of broad content and meaning. When a problem is marked as a security issue, its solution is most often associated with the public sector and state functions. In addition, quite a controversial and very political practice relationship to the environment, including the behavior of the relevant organs of state administration which can this specific state use to "securitized" environmental problems, define them as threat and give them a character of *high politics*. This further implies *financial priorities and emergency responses* of regimes that is required to take the same measures and responses as well as in case of conventional threats to the security of the state. In this regard, for the evaluation of the status of environmental problems in the country it is necessary to pay attention to the normative solutions and the official views of the relevant authorities, then the sources of funding, or whether they come from the budget, as is the case for example for military defense preparations and war, and at the end of each of the reference activity.

CONCLUSION

Environmental security is one of the key security issues of later date that has helped to expand the understanding of security at the turn of the century. To its affirmation significantly contributed increased scientific interests and environmental movements, primarily by being able to draw public attention to the problems of an ecological nature, to bring them in touch with the problems of overall human development and to challenge the long practice of conventional attitudes towards national security. Reached level of appreciation of environmental issues influenced on the harmonization of legislation of the states and contributed to a common approach to all aspects in a theoretical vacuum of schools of security after the end of the Cold War. New understanding of security in general, and particularly environmental, has been profiled after discussion and critical security studies (1994-2004) led between prestigious international schools and authorities. Today it is a problem that is representatively presented in the scientific and professional publications, in the political and normative

practices, in the economy of production and reference management activities to protect the environment. In political practice, the prevailing view in accordance with the character of the economic system of the state, the more it emphasizes profit character of the activity, rather than its contribution to better the environment. The illusion of the free market relations, in public clouds the view to those who do not see interest groups and corruption with whom the free market and the environment are space only for anarchy of strongest. At the same time, in a critical situation for the environment, the question arises whether the authorities will ethically and professionally with their announcements declare threats or it will be an opportunity to promote some particular interests? Second, in projects should be more "hearing" for the consequences, economic, political and environmental, as well as for the state of natural resources, living being and national security of the state, its neighbors and beyond. Then, it is still believed that environmental security is mainly associated with the threats the national state, and not very *threatening environment, other countries or individuals*. Policy of environmental security is an extremely important issue for human and national security, sustainable development and the general concept of state security policy. Among these, security policy environment must be subject of education, subject to the policy of development of the human community, environmental groups and organizations. It can be expected that the lessons learned from current practices contribute to the more perfect concept of environmental security, significant progress in the field of environmental and development studies with an important place in public policy, private and civil sector. This implies an extension research of security policies on all of the elements in its structure, the number of institutions and the development of complete cooperation between them,

and the functional and ethical practice of the executive authority of the public sector rather than high expectations result from the civil sector. It is very probable that the concept of human development is about to increase the importance of the environmental security policy, and that it will, in joint and cooperative approach of people, companies, agencies and organizations, contribute to achieve environmentally sustainable development. In this sense, the current practice in national security policy should not be an obstacle to the achievement of environmental security for all people.

Notes

- /1/ Castells, Manuel, The Rise and fall of a networked society, Golden Marketing, Zagreb, 2000th
- /2/ More details: Agenda 21, Chapter 8 „Including environment and development in decision making“
- /3/ In G. Britain Adam Smith has in XVIII century used this expression in second chapter of book four „The whealty of people“ under „About limitations on import from foreign countries of those goods that can be manufactured at home“
- /4/ Markovic, I., Slobodan, The Power of the waste in civil society, " Libero & Graphics " Šabac, 2006th
- /5/ Markovic I.Slobodan & Pejanović, Ljubo, Protection of the environment in sustainable development policy, FPPS, Novi Sad, 2012.
- /6/ Smith, Philip B. & Mah - Neef, Manfred, unmasked economy - the power of greed and the common good. Translation from English "Source" Zagreb, 2012.
- /7/ Politika, newspaper, Belgrade, 07.09.2012. pg.7
- /8/ More details in Agenda 21
- /9/ World Wildlife Fund (1961), Friends of the Earth (1969) and Greenpeace (1971)
- /10/ Collins, Allan, Contemporary Security Studies, translation from English, "Political Culture" Zagreb, 2010th